

# NEW YORK'S FASHIONABLE SEASON OPENS.

By Cholly Knickerbocker.

**T**HIS is the week that marks the opening of New York's fashionable season. Not all those who make up the social throng have forsaken the delights of the country, but the last events are scheduled, and the familiars of fashion are only waiting their happening to say adieu to suburban joys.

## New York.

The musicians are tuning their instruments; the green curtains have been drawn aside and the drop revealed. The footlights have been turned on and the actors and actresses are ready for their parts. In a minute the overture will begin. It is the commencement of the New York fashionable season. This week brings the crowning glory of the year at Hempstead—the steeplechase—as a week before the ball at Tuxedo announced the height of the season there. Next Monday is the opening of the Horse Show, and then the debutantes' teas and the opera. The country houses are still crowded, however; there is quite a little assemblage at Hot Springs, and there are many people at Tuxedo. The meets of the Meadowbrook Hunt will continue all through November, and the Westchester hounds have been having glorious runs. One can hardly say society is in town. It is supposed to be out in the country just now, and if you meet any one at the play or at any of the restaurants you will be told that "Just in for the evening, you know."

**T**HERE is a longing for something new. Women and men of the modish world are tired of everything. Even the varied matrimonial experiences of some of them are beginning to bore. There is a movement toward Bohemia. Anything new attracts the crowd, and you will find the One Hundred and fifty dining on Broadway, at one or the other of the all-night restaurants, and especially at that which is the latest, and mingling with all sorts and descriptions of society. In some places there is a reaction toward a more dignified mode of amusement. Last Summer algebras, dancers and readers who were hired to amuse the Newport contingent were almost insulted in their efforts to entertain in after-dinner performances. "You must say rag time" was the motto; but society is tired of rag time and rag babies and paper dolls and other infantile amusements. Even the Post dinner at Newport, where every one dressed as bubbles and where nursing bottles were passed around and where noble Gerry brought his fiancée, Edith Grey, in a perambulator, was only half a success. It was very odd indeed drinking fizzy from India-rubber and playing "outs and beans and barley grow;" but then it became a bore before the evening was half over. At Hot Springs that genial spirit, Harry Lehr, ruled the roast. Every one played croquet, and before six days Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish grew heartily tired of it, and her party, including Mr. Lehr, were shipped back to town. And society is looking for new worlds to conquer.

**O**N Tuesday the steeplechase at the farm of William C. Whitney will bring together the Meadowbrook and the Westchester sets. There will be many drags and handsome turnouts. Mrs. Adolph Ladenburg, Mrs. Jimmie Kernochan and Mrs. Smith Hadden will be on horseback, as usual, and Albert Stevens will have a large party. There will be the Benedicts, the Arthur Kemps, the Freddie Gebhards, the Van Rensselaer Kennedys, the Birds, the Ripleys, the Harrimans and the rest of the set. Sir Roche and Lady Cunard will also be among the spectators. Reggie Rivers is too busy with electioneering at his place up the Hudson, where he is running for Supervisor, to be there, and Prescott Lawrence is still at Newport. But there will be also many new people who will make their appearance on the grounds and have their own little parties or be obliged to pay a large fee for a small luncheon in the Meadowbrook tent. The course is admirable, and if the weather is fine it will be a delightful day.

**T**HE wedding of the week will be the wedding of Miss Edith Black and Dr. Pierce Bailey. It will take place on Saturday at Ockanickon, near Johnstown. The following Tuesday Miss Marie Russ Ruth Corwin will marry Adolphus Smedley, Jr., at Trinity Church, Hartford, Conn. There will then be a lull in weddings until December.

**H**ARRY GERRY has returned, and have fine clothes. During the first few days, while there was a dispute between the ex-Commodore and the Custom House authorities, the ladies did not make their appearance on Fifth avenue. Now every day you may see the Gerry carriage and the fat coachman and Mrs. Gerry and the young ladies arrayed in the very latest of Paris creations. The Gerrys will give their usual number of dinners this Winter and one large reception. New York is waiting anxiously for the announcement of the engagement of Mr. Robert Livingston Gerry and Miss Edith Grey. Should such an announcement be made and a wedding take place later in the season, it will be the cue for many large entertainments.

**M**R. ASTOR has improved very much in health, and she will return to New York shortly. The John Jacob Astors go abroad, and with the Frank Lawrences will make the trip up the Nile. The season in Cairo is in full blast in February, and it is very easy to leave New York just about the beginning of Lent and get the full benefit of it. In March, however, the season is ended, and there is a month in which there is nowhere to go before the Paris and London seasons begin.

**T**HE weakest debutante of the Winter is Miss Marian Haven, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Haven. Miss Haven was to have made her bow last season, but the death of her brother, Richard Suydam Palmer, prevented this. He was a son of Mrs. Haven by a first marriage. He was also very well off, and he left a great part of his money to his half sister. The Havens have always had the same place in society in New York. They are in the front rank, and Miss Haven's debut means not only a large reception, but possibly a ball and many smaller entertainments. The Havens have always been conspicuous at the opera and are in the parterre.

**M**ISS NORA ISELIN, the daughter of Oliver Iselin by his first wife, who was a Miss Garner, makes her debut this Winter. She is a tall girl, very handsome and resembles her mother, who was one of the great beauties of New York. Miss Iselin will be given her coming-out reception by her grandmother, Mrs. Garner, at the old-fashioned house on Madison square. The Iselins will all give entertainments for her, and she will undoubtedly be one of the belles of the season. Her cousin, Miss Rita Iselin, also makes her debut. She is the second daughter of Mrs. John Iselin and a sister of young Iselin who married Miss Goodridge last June. The reception is to take place the week after Horse Show week, and with Miss Iselin there will be about fifteen debutantes assisting her in receiving.

**M**ISS LAURA SWAN will first make her debut in Baltimore the Monday morning the same week in December. She will then come to New York, where her mother, Mrs. Charles Dyer, Jr., will give her a large reception at their house, thirty-seventh street. This was the house which Mrs. Clark Mackay had last year and the Cornelius Vanderbilt, juniors, the year before.

**M**ISS HARRIET DELAFIELD, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Maturin Livingston Delafield, is another debutante of the Winter, and cards are already out for her debut. The debut of Miss Delafield will bring together all the other Knickerbocker element as well as the fashionable set. Miss Peyster, the youngest of the four daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Peyster, will also make her debut this Winter. Her coming-out tea will take place on November 23. The debutantes have been at Lakewood all the Autumn, and will return to their house in East Forty-second street for the Horse Show.

**T**HERE are any number of young girls who will be introduced this Winter first at a tea and then at the Assembly. The list is larger than it has been for years. The dancing class numbers are filled, and the Winter will be almost one for people who have waited some years to get their innings. Frances Stewart, Miss Barker, Miss Lenthion, Miss Sands, Hollins, Miss Mary Wagstaff, Miss Anna Dodge and Miss Thompson are the names of some of the other debutantes of the Winter. Miss Marion Fish will not formally come out. Miss Lily Oelrichs came out last Winter, and Miss Whiting has made her debut at Newport. It is still a little doubtful if Miss Burden, the second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Townsend Burden, makes her debut. She is a very pretty girl, with a marvelous complexion. Mrs. Townsend Burden is a direct descendant from a great colonial beauty, Evelyn Bird, and is not only a very handsome matron, but was one of the beauties of Baltimore before she married Mr. Burden.

**W**HEN all these debutantes' teas and receptions shall be over and the dancing classes begun and the Assembly on hand it will be well enough to grate about the gaiety of the season. There will be a tendency to more serious occupations and dinner giving. The musician will have great Mrs. George Crocker, who will bring out her second, Miss R. Verford, will entertain it, this way.



## Wedding of Miss Gertrude J. Alexandre and Mr. Samuel A. Clark.

**T**HE wedding of Miss Gertrude J. Alexandre, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Henry Alexandre, of Shore Acres, Rosebank, Staten Island, to Mr. Samuel Adams Clark, will be the most brilliant and prominent affair of its kind during the month of November. Miss Alexandre is one of the most beautiful young women of the Long Island and Staten Island sets, and has been one of the most admired belles of New York ever since she appeared in society.

Considering the ideal spot where the wedding will be held and the social prominence of the family, the nuptials will draw to Staten Island for the day the greater portion of the smart set from New York, and especial means will be provided to transport the guests across the bay to and from Shore Acres, the country home of the Alex-

andres, which is one of the charming show places of Staten Island, being a beautiful spot, with broad expanse of ocean, bay and harbor.

The wedding is solemnized on November 9, and will be characterized by an unusually pretty bevy of bridesmaids. The young ladies chosen are Miss Isabel Cameron, daughter of Sir Roderick Cameron; Miss Beatrice de Coppet, Miss Marguerite Chapin, Miss Ursula Leavitt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Leavitt, of Meadowbrook Farm, Stamford, Conn.; Miss Elsie Howland and Miss Jessie Fanshaw, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William S. Fanshaw—all young ladies prominent in the Southampton set.

The bride will be attended by two maids of honor, which is the fashion now, instead of the customary little across the bay to and from Shore Acres, the country home of the Alex-

andres, which is one of the charming show places of Staten Island, being a beautiful spot, with broad expanse of ocean, bay and harbor.

Mr. Samuel Adams Clark's best man will be Mr. Richard C. Hanson, and the ushers Messrs. Guy Phelps Dodge, Milton S. Barger, Alexander Clark, Marshall J. Dodge, Dr. Byard J. Clark, Henry B. Cameron, Charles A. Kip and Reynolds Hitt.

The color schemes of the gowns and decorations are to be white. The bride's gown will be peerless white satin, trimmed with rare lace, and she will wear old family jewels, the whole to be set off by the diaphanous tulle veil, pinned with the jeweled star on her queenly little head.

On her mother's side Miss Alexandre comes from the famous Lawrence family, long identified with Staten Island, who have married into some of the

most prominent families in England as well as America.

The bride is a near relative of Lady Randolph Churchill, her mother being a sister of Mrs. Clarence Dinsmore and a cousin to Lady Churchill. Her step-mother is a sister of Mrs. Foxhall Keene.

The town house of the Alexandres is located at No. 10 East Thirty-second street, but it was the preference of the young bride to have an ideal country wedding, and certainly no place could be more charmingly situated or more privately facilitated to celebrate it than Shore Acres.

So far it is the most brilliant and fashionable wedding booked for the Winter months, and Mr. Clark, who is also well known in New York, and a popular clubman as well, is to be congratulated on the selection of his fair young bride.

**I**N December Mr. and Mrs. Storrs Wells will give a large reception to introduce their daughter, Miss Natalie Wells. Miss Wells is a strikingly handsome girl, and she has passed a year abroad. Her mother is a very pretty woman, and goes out a great deal in society. She belongs to the Astor set, and they have also a box in the parterre of the opera.

**T**HERE are few changes at the opera in the parterre boxes. The John Drexels are the most prominent among the newcomers. The Vanderbilts will keep their boxes. Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish has the William K. Vanderbilt box for alternate nights. Mrs. Ogden Mills, who will remain in this country; Mrs. W. Bayard Cutting, Mrs. Luther Kountze, who has just returned from abroad; Mrs. George Gould, who will have Lady Mary Sackville with her; Mrs. Astor, Mrs. R. T. Wilson, Mrs. Townsend Burden, the Iselins, the Gerrys, the Havens, the Barbyses, the Thomases, Mrs. Jules Vatable, the Julliards, Mrs. Clarence Mackay will all be seen in their usual places.

**T**HE sale of boxes for the Horse Show on Thursday evinced something more of an interest than of late years. Boxes will be taken by the three Mrs. Goulds, Mrs. John Drexel, Mrs. Widener and Mrs. Carter, of Philadelphia; Mrs. Fred Benedict, the Gerrys along the line. Mrs. Ogden Mills retains her box in that little corner just over the entrance where there will be also Mrs. Albert Stevens and others of the Meadowbrook set. Mrs. Alexander Brown and Mrs. Gebhard will represent Baltimore, and Mrs. Frederic Bronson, Mrs. Townsend Burden, Mrs. Hermann Oelrichs and Mrs. Baylies will all be seen in their accustomed places.

**M**R. AND MRS. OGDEN MILLS will arrive in town this week. They give the last of their large house parties over this Sunday. Miss Anna Sands, who has been stopping with them, will also return. Colonel and Mrs. John Jacob Astor will be at their house in the latter part of the week.

**I**F the cable reports be correct, the Duke of Manchester will be in our midst by Wednesday. This is the first visit of the young Duke to the land of his mother's birth. His grandmother, Mrs. Yanga, is stopping with Miss Leary on lower Fifth avenue, and his uncle Fernando is at Tuxedo and New York. He is one day in one place and one day in the other. There are many rumors about the Duke, who will be the lion of the season. His mother has been very anxious for him to come to America and marry an American. He was engaged to Miss Joan Wilson, the cousin of Miss Muriel Wilson, who was over here a few weeks ago, but the engagement was broken off, and the young Duke sent to Australia. There were some rumors a few years ago that he was very much in love with May Goelet, but her father, the late Ogden Goelet, made such an indignant denial of it that the matter was absolutely settled in a short time. Since then one has heard of the young Duke on many occasions. He had his picture taken with Mrs. Brown Potter serving out a brand of bottled American beverages at the American bar at the Charing Cross Bazaar. He was said to be engaged to Miss Elliott, the sister of Maxine Elliott, the wife of Nat Goodwin, and with the festive Nat he has been having a fine time in Ireland this Autumn. He then went over to Dinard, where he performed in a burlesque of "Cinderella," taking the part of one of the jealous sisters and dancing and singing with the aplomb of the music halls. He also is said to have appeared in bathing costume at the estillon and shocked his hostess, Mrs. Hughes Hallett. He is also said to be very attentive to a very handsome young matron well known in the Long Island set, and who may get a divorce from her husband. If all this is true there may possibly be another American Duchess. The lady in question has just arrived in this country, and the advent of the Duke has set the usual tongues wagging. However, he is a duke, and he will be the lion of the season.

**M**R. JOHN MACKAY will remain in this country until the stork alights on her son's roof, and this is now expected at any moment. There are also expectations in the Livermore household, and it is said that Edward Morgan has hopes of another fifty thousand dollars by the birth of another child. All these rumors are truly delightful. There is also a story that Mrs. Fred Nelson intends to remarry, and that the happy man is not Harry Eldridge, but a dark horse. I have heard this before, and have serious doubts of the veracity of the statement.

**T**HE Potter Palmers have settled in Chicago for the nonce. They will, of course, go abroad this Winter. Potter Palmer is not as well a man as would be supposed, but he is not an invalid. Whether the Potter Palmers will join the Cantarenes is another question. The Prince at last accedes to intended to remain in Paris for the Winter. His mother's family are all French people, and the Cantarene domain is not the most cheerful place in Winter.

**M**R. ADOLPH LADENBURG is distinguishing herself not only as a splendid horsewoman, but as an all round society devotee. The meets at Hempstead this year are in the afternoon. They are followed by a dinner and a dance. The rides to hounds have been particularly thrilling, and Mrs. Ladenburg has been in at the death every time. On odd days she is seen in town, lurching at the Waldorf or at Sherry's and at the play. Lady Cunard has been her guest, and later on Mrs. Ladenburg will visit Lady Cunard in England. The Cunards have a pretty hunting lodge and are members of the "Quorn" Hunt.

**M**R. HERMANN OELRICHS will not leave New York until January. She will give several handsome dinners next month, and will be seen at the Opera and the Horse Show. She will then, according to present plans, join her sister, Mrs. Willie K. Vanderbilt, Jr., on the Nile.

**T**HE wedding in Baltimore this week was that of Ralph Paer and Miss Laura Jenkins. Miss Jenkins was one of the picturesque young Southern women of Narragansett and Bar Harbor. It was at the latter place that she appeared as Trilby. The performance took place in a tent, and every one paid a dollar to see the Baltimore beauty pose as Du Maurier's heroine. The occasion was the annual fair for the Village Improvement Association, and a very smart gathering it was. Miss Jenkins is an heiress as well as a beauty, and Paer is said to have inherited a very nice snug sum.

**T**HE Lawrence-Willing wedding was very exclusive and ultra fashionable. There were only a handful of people who went over in a special car, and were the guests of Colonel John Jacob Astor and his wife. Frank Lawrence had the usual crowd of well-known men to act as ushers and best man. Wintle Rutherford, who is a friend of the family and always in evidence at any of the Astor functions, was the latter, and Winnie Hoyt and Tommie Hitehook ushers. On account of family mourning Willie Vanderbilt could not be present. The Astor party came back on Friday, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence and Jimmie Van Alen are among those to leave our shores this week.

**M**R. AND MRS. EDWIN GOULD will move into their new house on Fifth avenue this week. They intend to entertain a great deal this Winter. Mrs. Henry Burnett will be their guest at the Horse Show. Mrs. Burnett will also visit Mrs. Gilbert on Long Island before she settles in town for the Winter. Mrs. Gilbert was Miss Brookway.

**O**NE of the weddings of the year will be that of Miss Rosalind Secor to Thomas R. Dewar, late Sheriff of London and with future possibilities of being a Lord Mayor. This will take place at the residence of the bride's mother, Mrs. W. H. Secor, on January 1. Miss Secor is a handsome girl, with a splendid figure, and she has been much admired on both sides of the Atlantic. The Rev. Dr. Wesley Brown will perform the ceremony. Mr. Dewar is at the head of a whiskey firm which is very well known in this country.

**S**ENOX is about over for the season. The eon hunts are finished, and there is nothing much to interest society. The John Sloanes have been the first in entertaining, and the Cooks and the De Heredias have also done their share. But the season has not been brilliant. The mourning of the William Sloanes and the illness of Anson Phelps Stokes and Mr. Bishop did not help to mend matters. Tuxedo, on the contrary, has never been so gay. There has been a new element introduced into Tuxedo society, and a great many new faces are seen. I was much amused at the young set who have been at Tuxedo about five years turning up their noses at what they called the new people. I was told that Mrs. Lordillard Ronalds refused to go even into the ball room because she did not want to associate with parvenues. I admire Mrs. Ronalds very much. She is a handsome young woman with much style and a certain cleverness of speech. But it seems to me that I can remember the time when Mrs. Ronalds herself was not considered of such old stock, and few people in the set in which she now shines knew her. She is related to the McKelars on her father's side, but on her mother's she has many very nice but totally simple people, who live in Brooklyn. I believe it was Mrs. Paron Stevens who first gave Miss Perry her entree, and this happened at Newport not ten years ago. Miss Perry has since married Lordillard Ronalds.

**T**HE automobile parade of yesterday attracted a large crowd, and the hub windows were filled with spectators. The automobile was indeed the fashionable fad of the day, and at Newport last Summer there was nothing which could equal in the history of the season the automobile parade. These machines have been in use a great deal in Hempstead this Autumn, and are seen accompanying the hunt to the meet. The parade, of course, was more of an advertisement, and had something of a commercial character, but, all the same, a lot of fashionable people were interested in it.

**M**R. AND MRS. GEORGE VANDERBILT are at Baltimore, and they go abroad shortly for the Winter. Mrs. Vanderbilt is a little more accustomed to the place than when she was a bride, and takes a great interest in the tenants and the improvements made by Mr. Vanderbilt. Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Bown have been in New York for the opening of the Irving engagement.